

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending and have been amended herein. For the following reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Applicant has amended the claims with the Examiner's comments in mind. Thus, it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Justin, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,505,733). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

Justin, et al. is prior art that is mentioned in the subject application (see paragraph 0002) and well known by the inventor of the subject application. In that document:

- 55 is an indicator bearing [7:12] affixed to non threaded portion 412 of the elongated rod 12 [7:11] -see Fig 5b for instance. It doesn't drive the rod in most cases but provides a sound feedback each quarter of turns. 55 is not an input part as the Examiner asserts.
- 706 is an "end cap" serving to maintain rollers in the cage and assembled with cylindrical clutch housing 702 [8:18-20] of first clutch 60. 706 is not a reference part as the Examiner asserts.

- The component between elements 60 and 40 shown in fig 1b is the other end cap 706 of the second clutch 70; it is not an output part as the Examiner asserts.

In fact the invention and the device described in Justin, et al. have completely different structures and operations.

Justin et al.

- The two clutches 60 and 70 work between an outer surface (respectively the non threaded portion 412 of the elongated rod 40 and the threaded portion 410 of the elongated rod 40) and an inner surface (respectively the bore 208 of the first cylindrical member 20 and the bore 308 of the second cylindrical member 30).
- Further, “the second clutch travels along the threaded portion” [2:47-48] of the rod.
- And, the distance between the two clutches increases when the device lengthens.

Device according to the invention:

- The two clutches work between two outer surfaces.
- Both clutches are fixed relatively to the rod, none cooperates with its threaded portion.
- The clutches are juxtaposed and therefore the distance between the two clutches stays constant when the device lengthens

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims patentably distinguish over Justin, et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 21, 2008

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